

## On the Mediterranean Podagrioninae, with the description of a new *Iridophagoides* (Hym., Torymidae)

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ABSTRACT. — The South European species of Podagrioninae are briefly reviewed, with a key to the genera classified into two tribes, Podagrionini and Palachiini (trib.n.). In *Iridophagoides* Erdős, 1964, previously known only from the type-species *I. petiolatus* Erdős from Algeria, a new species is described from Spain; both species are compared with the stress on the diagnostic characters.

### Key to the Mediterranean genera of Podagrioninae

- 1 Apex of hind tibia truncate; hind femur slender, its teeth weak, translucent, usually confined to apical third; body with bright metallic colours (*Palachiini*, tribus n.) . . . . . *Palachia* Bouček, 1970
- Hind tibia acuminate at apex; hind femur broader and with strong dark teeth extending over more than half of the ventral edge; metallic colours usually not bright (Podagrionini) . . . . . 2
- 2 Apex of hind tibia forming a short triangular spine which is at most about 1.5 times as long as breadth of tibia at tarsal insertion . . . . . *Podagrion* Spinola, 1811
- Apex of hind tibia produced into a long curved spine . . . . . 3
- 3 Forewing hyaline; funicular segments transverse; subocular suture distinct, groove-like; propodeum short and steep, with arcuate irregular cross-carina running from middle anteriorly towards the sides; gaster sessile . . . . . *Iridophaga* Picard, 1933
- Forewing with a cross-infumation at marginal vein; funicular segments elongate; subocular suture rudimentary, indistinct; propodeum subhorizontal, with deep reticulation but without any carinae; gaster in ♀ more or less petiolate . . . . . *Iridophagoides* Erdős, 1964

The genus *Palachia* was described from a single male from Yugoslavia, but is represented by several species in Africa. The biology is still unknown, probably they are not parasitic in the eggs of Mantodea as are all the species of the tribe Podagrionini.

*Podagrion* is known in two species in southern Europe: *P. pachymerum* (Walker) and *P. splendens* Spinola. *P. pachymerum*, from the lectotype in the British Museum (Natural History), is the same as *P. bellator* of some authors, e.g. of Nikolskaja (1952, p. 110), i.e. with the legs and gaster mainly rufous and longer funicular segments, whilst *P. bellator* (Dalman) is a fossil species. As to *P. splendens*, I take the species also in Nikolskaja's interpretation, in the absence of an evidence to the contrary (the original material is lost). There are further species in North Africa and the two European species are very variable, at least in *pachymerum* with two forms of the males, so that the identification is not easy. Somebody with access to the field material throughout the season should experiment with them to prove the true value of the „forms”.

*Iridophaga* is represented in southern Europe by the widely distributed but uncommon *I. lichtensteini* Picard and another species, *I. korsakowi* Picard, is known in North Africa; further species in Africa and India.

*Iridophagoides* is treated here in more detail.

#### *Iridophagoides tatarianae* sp.n.

♀. 2.3 mm (body; plus ovipositor 2.8—2.9 mm). Largely agreeing in colour and many morphological characters with *I. petiolatus*, but forewing with infumate cross-fascia confined to basal half of marginal vein, not extending to stigma.

Head dorsally 1.87 times as broad as long; temples rounded off, in dorsal view hardly one-fifth

as long as eye. Ocellar triangle 2.8 times as broad as high. Head in lateral view shown in text-fig. 2, in facial view 1.2 times as broad as high, with the eye 1.06 times as long (high) as breadth of frons; genae converging, almost straight. Relative measurements: eye 41:32, malar space 20, mouth 27. Antenna: flagellum plus pedicellus combined 1.7 times as long as breadth of head; anellus transverse; area of micropilosity on clava extending over 0.75 length.

Thorax dorsally slightly flattened, especially the scutellum; shoulders of pronotum conspicuous. Mid lobe of mesoscutum as long as posteriorly broad. Scutellum (less axillulae) barely longer than broad; smooth frenum in front of apical groove less than a quarter as long as the punctured part of scutellum. Propodeum medially hardly as long as the scutellum. Hind coxa dorsally with hairs rather sparse; hind femur similar to that of text-fig. 3 but teeth 3 and 4 more apart. Forewing 2.75 times as long as broad, part beyond venation only 1.03 times as long as broad; marginal vein about 0.37 the length of costal cell; stigmal vein distinctly shorter than the postmarginal, sessile, its knob broader than high.

Gastral petiole in dorsal view hardly as long as broad, smooth, in lateral view slightly concave, with hind margin distinctly raised. Ovipositor 1.2 times as long as the body.

♂. 1.7 mm. Dark green with sides of thorax and propodeum bluish, as in ♀, but scapus, legs and base of gaster generally darker, more extensively infuscate; wing fascia less pronounced. Scapus barely reaching vertex level, in lateral view 3.5 times as long as broad, broadest in two-thirds. Pedicellus dorsally 1.7 times as long as broad, two-thirds as long as first funicular segment which is 2.5 times as long as broad; anellus transverse; flagellum hardly thickened apically, its dense semi-erect hairs about half as long as breadth of segments. For hind leg see text-fig. 3. Gaster half as long as the thorax; petiole slightly transverse.

Host unknown.

Holotype ♀, Spain: La Herradura (Prov. Granada), 24.VI.1973 (Bouček); deposited in the British Museum (Natural History), London. Paratypes. Spain: Santa Elena (Prov. Jaen), 1 ♀, 5.VII.1974; nr. Nerja (Prov. Malaga), 1 ♂, 23.VI.1973 (Bouček).

Named after my wife, in recognition of her support on our collecting trips.

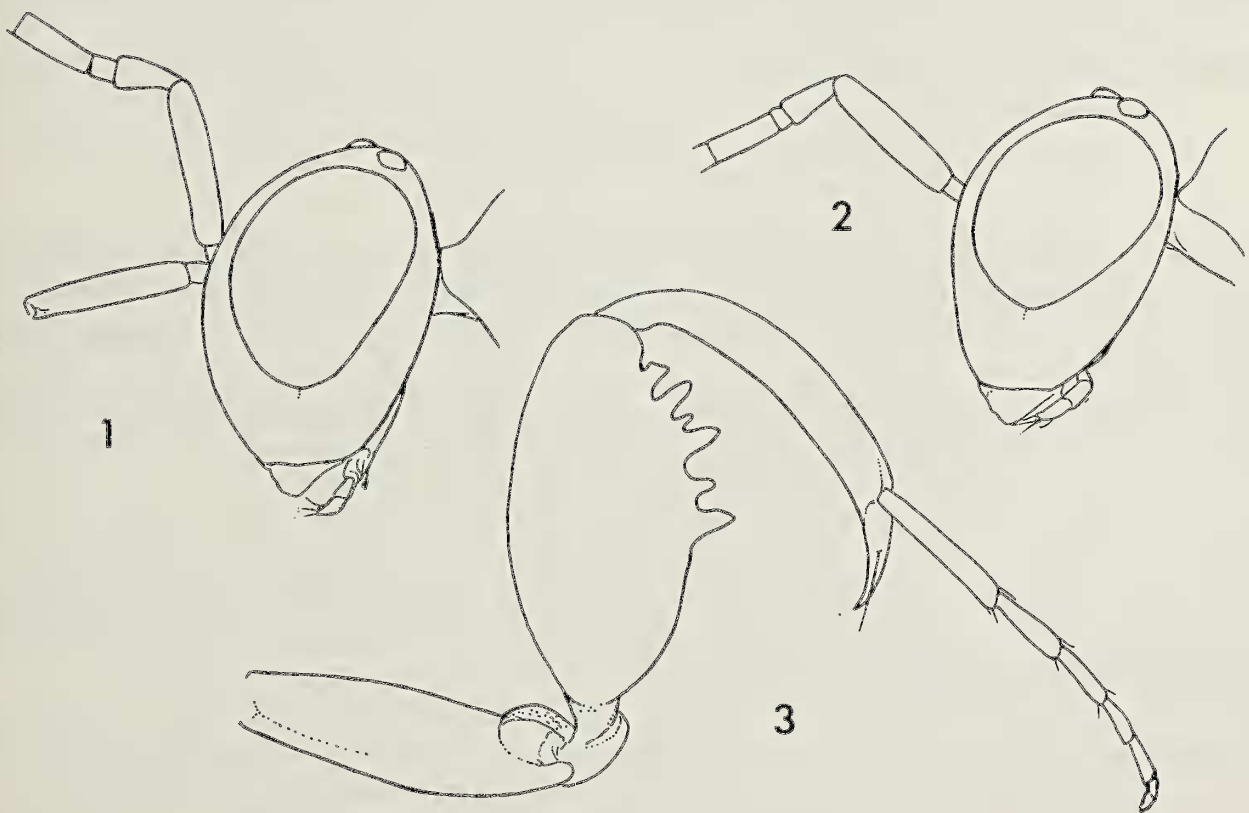


Fig. 1. *Iridophagoides petiolatus* Erdős, head of holotype ♀ in lateral view. — Figs 2—3, *I. tatiannae* sp.n., head of ♀ in lateral view and hind leg of ♂.



*Iridophagoides petiolatus* Erdös

The following redescription is based on an examination of the holotype (in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris) and includes the characters which are incorrect in the original description.

♀. Infumation of forewing forming an oblique macula reaching the stigmal vein.

Head dorsally 1.71 times as broad as long; temples rounded-receding, about a quarter as long as the eye. Ocellar triangle 2.4 times as broad as high. Head in lateral view shown in text-fig. 1; in facial view 1.13 times as broad as high, with eye 1.1 times as long (high) as the breadth of frons. Relative measurements: eye 53:33, malar space 19, mouth 29. Genae moderately buccate, not straight. Antenna: flagellum plus pedicellus combined 1.9 times as long as breadth of head; anellus subquadrate.

Thorax dorsally moderately convex; shoulders of pronotum more rounded than in *tatiana*. Mid lobe of mesoscutum distinctly longer than broad posteriorly (29:24). Scutellum (less axillulae) narrower than long (31:33); smooth frenum in front of the apical crenulate furrow almost one-third as long as the punctured part. Propodeum medially slightly longer than the scutellum. Hind coxa dorsally with a streak of rather dense hairs. Forewing 3.15 times as long as broad, part beyond the postmarginal vein 1.29 times as long as broad; marginal vein about 0.27 the length of costal cell; stigmal vein barely shorter than the postmarginal, subpetiolate, its knob broader than high. Hindwing 5.2 times as long as broad, its vein slightly curved (not as in Erdös's fig. 3).

Gastral petiole twice as long as broad, dorsally smooth and nearly flat; tergites smooth. Ovipositor hardly longer than the body.

## REFERENCES

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- Erdös, J., 1964. Chalcidoidea nova in Gallia et Numidia inventa (Hym.). *Bull. Soc. ent. Fr.* 69 (3—4): 89—101.
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EMMEL, THOMAS C., SPECTRUM VLINDERBOEK. Oorspronkelijke titel: Butterflies. Nederlandse bewerking door Dr. R. de Jong, 260 pp, 317 kleurenfoto's, tekstfiguren. Prijs tot 1 januari 1977 f 79,50, daarna f 85,-. Uitgeverij Het Spectrum, Utrecht, Antwerpen. ISBN 90-274-8372-8.

Wat in dit groot formaat boek onmiddellijk opvalt, zijn de schitterende kleurenfoto's, bijna alle naar levende vlinders in hun eigen biotoop, en praktisch uit alle delen van de wereld, waarvoor vele bekende insektenfotografen hun bijdragen geleverd hebben.

De tekst is onderverdeeld in drie hoofdstukken: I. levensgeschiedenis, gedrag, indeling van de dagvlinders in families (p. 21—106); II. biotopen (regenwoud, woestijn enz.) (p. 107—209); III. dagvlinders en de mens (bedreiging door vernietiging van biotopen, verzamelen, fotograferen enz.) (p. 231—260). Tenslotte volgen een verklarende woordenlijst (de correcte Nederlandse spelling is diapauze), bibliografie en register.

De levendige en interessante Amerikaanse tekst is door de heer De Jong in even goed Nederlands weergegeven, waarbij af en toe ook onze eigen fauna ter sprake komt. Het boek is uiteraard geen systematisch werk, maar het geeft wel een heel goede indruk van de boeiende facetten die het waarnemen en bestuderen van dagvlinders te bieden hebben, niet in het minst door de eigen ervaringen van de oorspronkelijke auteur en door de citaten van verzamelaars die hun belevenissen in weinig bezochte gebieden in boeken en tijdschriften meegedeeld hebben. — Lpk.